In the Matter Of:

Town of Sullivan's Island v In Re: Board of Zoning Appeals

Board of Zoning Appeals Meeting August 11, 2016

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5	App	roved on September 8,	2016
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9			-3
11	HEARING BEFORE:	CHAIRMAN ELIZABETH	J TE777
12	DATE:	August 11, 2016	1 IEZZA
13	TIME:	6:00 PM	
14	LOCATION:	Sullivan's Island	Town Hall
15	LOCATION:	2050-B Middle Stre Sullivan's Island,	eet
16	REPORTED BY:	PRISCILLA A. NAY	
17	REPORTED BI:	Certified Shorthar	nd Reporter
18	A WILLIA	M PORFRTS .TR & 7	ASSOCIATES
19	A. WILLIAM ROBERTS, JR., & ASSOCIATES Fast, Accurate & Friendly		
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25			

1	APPEARANCES:	2
2	ELIZABETH TEZZA, CHAIRMAN CARLIN THOMAS, BOARD MEMBER	
3	PETER RICHARDSON, BOARD MEMBER EMILY BRASHER, BOARD MEMBER	
4	JAMES ELLIOTT, BOARD MEMBER JODY M. LATHAM, BOARD MEMBER	
5	JOE HENDERSON, ZONING ADMINISTRATOR COURTNEY LILES, ADMINISTRATIVE SPECIALIST	
6	RANDY ROBINSON, BUILDING OFFICIAL BRUCE A. BERLINSKY, ESQUIRE	
7	JAMES QUARLES JESSICA CARROLL	:
8		
9	ALSO PRESENT:	
10	TIM EVANS	
11	LARRY MORRIS	
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1	THE CHAIRMAN: It is six o'clock and I
2	am going to call this meeting to order. Courtney,
3	have the Freedom of Information requirements been
4	met?
5	MS. LILES: They have.
6	THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much. We
7	will now move to the approval of the minutes from
8	June the 9th. Did we not do that in July?
9	MS. LATHAM: We didn't do that in July.
10	We didn't have a meeting.
11	MR. ELLIOTT: That would be the
12	MS. LATHAM: There was no meeting in
13	July.
14	THE CHAIRMAN: There was no meeting in
15	July. Thank you. So now we have approval of the
16	minutes from June 9th.
17	MS. LATHAM: I move to approve the
18	minutes from June 9th.
19	THE CHAIRMAN: Is there a second?
20	MR. ELLIOTT: Second.
21	THE CHAIRMAN: All in favor signify by
22	saying aye.
23	(All Board members stated aye.)
24	THE CHAIRMAN: Like sign opposed? The
25	minutes are approved. Now we'll proceed to the
- 1	

1 applicant/participant oath. So anyone who is going to speak before the Board of Zoning Appeals, please 2 3 rise. 4 (Oath administered to applicants and 5 participants.) 6 THE CHAIRMAN: Also, if you are going 7 to be speak before the BZA and you're not a staff 8 member, make sure that you have signed in. 9 A few announcements before we start. If you have a cell phone, please turn it off or on 10 11 vibrate. All comments are to be addressed to the Board of Zoning Appeals and not to the other 12 13 members of the audience. 14 (The proceedings were interrupted.) 15 THE CHAIRMAN: That was very timely. That should have happened like 10 seconds ago. 16 17 We will be following our rules of procedure, 18 Article 4, Hearing Procedure Section 5, with 19 respect to time limitations. 20 The way we will operate is we'll have a 21 statement of the matter to be heard from our 22 agenda; presentation by the Town official, 23 10-minute limit; presentation by the applicant, 24 10-minute limit; presentation by the public,

25

10-minute limit; and then a rebuttal by the

1 applicant for five minutes. The Board may question 2 participants at any point in the hearing. 3 After we have moved through those 4 presentations and heard public comment we will 5 close the public comment and the Board deliberates 6 without any public comment unless we ask a 7 question. 8 2624 I'ON AVENUE 9 So the first thing we're going to do 10 is hear a request for a continuance. So under 11 Section F, Administrative Appeals, 2624 I'on 12 Avenue, they are requesting a continuance because the owner of the property cannot attend. 13 14 Mr. Berlinsky, would you like to 15 officially request that? 16 MR. BERLINSKY: Thank you. Yes. Ι officially request it just until next month. 17 She 18 wanted to be here and unexpectedly had to go out of 19 town. 20 THE CHAIRMAN: So if there is no 21 opposition, let's move for a continuance to the 22 September meeting. Do all approve? 23 MS. TIMMONS: Yes. 24 MS. BRASHER: I approve.

25

So moved.

THE CHAIRMAN:

We'll see you

1	next month.
2	MR. BERLINSKY: Thank you.
3	2850 Jasper Boulevard
4	THE CHAIRMAN: We'll now move to the
5	next item on the agenda which is a special
6	exception request for 2850 Jasper Boulevard.
7	Clowney Architects request approval of the
8	accessory dwelling and the special exception.
9	Joe, would you please present.
LO	MR. HENDERSON: Thank you. Members of
L1	the Board, Agenda Item D-1 is a special exception
L2	request being made for a historic property, a
13	traditional island resource located at 2850
14	Jasper Boulevard. This request is being made in
15	accordance with Zoning Ordinance Section 21-20
16	C.(2).
۱7	This is a special exception that allows
18	an accessory or the historic structure to become an
19	accessory dwelling, a second dwelling on the lot,
20	and allow a second building to be built elsewhere
21	on the property. There are required conditions for
22	the operation and that's 21-20 C.
23	The Design Review Board previously
24	reviewed this project on June 15th and granted

conceptual approval provided several conditions be

24

25

met. I'll just briefly touch on those. The historic cottage was allowed to be elevated by one foot. It was also allowed to be relocated slightly to the east on this property.

I'll show you a site plan for the proposed location. Additionally, several additions, decking, and stairs are to be removed from this structure that are not original to the property. The square footage remaining will be 1,136 square feet, I believe.

James, isn't that correct?

MR. QUARLES: Yes.

MR. HENDERSON: It's 1,136. Let's see. In order to grant the special exception the second step in this process is for the BZA to go through the findings for issuing the special exception. These are statutory requirements and those are listed in 21-178.

I'll display that on the slide here. I will yield to the Board for any questions about this application or the standards that we are required to review.

THE CHAIRMAN: Why is the home being moved to the east? Is it because it's in the current setback?

1 MR. HENDERSON: Yes. 2 THE CHAIRMAN: It looks like it's very close. 3 MR. RICHARDSON: That's the extension 4 5 of 28 and a half. 6 MR. HENDERSON: So the current --7 MS. TIMMONS: It's in the street. 8 THE CHAIRMAN: Yeah, but there's still 9 a setback. MR. HENDERSON: So the current location 10 11 of the structure -- let me zoom into this a little 12 bit more. So this is actually a right-of-way. 13 Jasper Boulevard is here on the bottom. It appears as though it's just a driveway, but it is actually 14 15 a right-of-way extension of 28 and a half. 16 So this could be developed as a road sometime in the future that could access the marsh 17 18 up here. The structure is about four feet off of 19 the property line or even less. 20 THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. That's what it looked like. 21 MR. HENDERSON: So it's just being slid 22 laterally. It's not being moved to the front or to 23 24 the back. It's going to meet a 20-foot side setback right-of-way. So staff supports this. 25

21	MR.	QUARLES:	Ye

23 clear on where the entrance is moving.

24 MR. HENDERSON: I don't think it was

ever used. So this is an aerial. That's one of

25

- those DOT curb cuts they put in without --1 2 Ascertaining where the THE CHAIRMAN: 3 property is? 4 MR. HENDERSON: For no reason at all. 5 THE CHAIRMAN: Got you. 6 MS. LATHAM: They eyeballed it. 7 MR. HENDERSON: You're going to be accessing from 28 and a half, correct? 8
- 9 MR. QUARLES: Yes.
- MR. HENDERSON: Which is the preferred design.
- THE CHAIRMAN: I just wanted to clarify
 that if the historic house was moving where the
 access was going to be. Do y'all have any
 guestions for Joe?
 - MR. QUARLES: My name is James Quarles. I'm with Beau Clowney Architects and I'm here today to request approval to use this historic structure as a dwelling unit so that in the future we may build a new residence on the backside of the property.
 - variance. It's a -- currently it's an existing structure that's less than 1,200 square feet.
- 25 We're not really adding on any heated square

17

18

19

20

21

2.2

23

24

footage outside of the existing envelope. We are removing a rear deck and ramp and building a new deck in its place.

We will have to do some structural renovations to the backside of the house because there's an old enclosed porch that has just kind of giving way, but the front of the house is pretty sound.

We are moving it about 12 feet, I guess, to the east or northeast and that is -- one, we're in violation of the current setbacks of the property. It we creates a problem for the future house, but really it's just so close to that property line and there's just a group of great oaks that are just growing right into the house.

It just allows us to get away from those oaks because we do plan to rebuild the foundation. We are going to elevate up to a foot. Hopefully we won't have to elevate all if we ever get new flood maps. So that's the other reason for relocating.

THE CHAIRMAN: So do they anticipate building the structure soon or we're not doing anything about an additional house on the lot at this point?

1	MR. HENDERSON: No. The owners were up
2	in the air.
3	MR. QUARLES: There is no design for
4	a future house. If we do have limitations that
5	the DRB dictates we're not allowed for any
6	exceptions or overage requests, the 25 percent
7	square footage
8	MR. HENDERSON: No increases in the
9	coverage requirements of the ordinance.
10	MR. QUARLES: So in the future when we
11	go to plan a house it will be less than 3,000
12	square feet with less than 2,200 square
13	THE CHAIRMAN: No variances
14	anticipated?
15	MR. QUARLES: No.
16	THE CHAIRMAN: Great.
17	MR. HENDERSON: I would just point out
18	one thing here and that is the build-to provision.
19	We had a special exception and lots of discussion
20	about this. So the block begins here and the house
21	furthest to the marsh sets the build-to line which
22	is right out here. (Pointing to screen)
23	THE CHAIRMAN: Okay.
24	MR. HENDERSON: The new house is
25	proposed right behind that build-to line.

MS. LATHAM: They're not going to 1 anticipate needing any variances for the --2 MR. HENDERSON: No variances needed. 3 4 THE CHAIRMAN: Good. 5 MR. QUARLES: You can actually see in 6 this very rough diagram the property line actually 7 ends before we get to the build-to line. We don't 8 anticipate --9 THE CHAIRMAN: Oh, okay. MR. QUARLES: -- building past the 10 11 neighbor's --12 MR. HENDERSON: This build-to line, which is actually in the next block. 13 14 MR. QUARLES: Yeah, so it doesn't 15 really apply. 16 MR. HENDERSON: Thanks for showing 17 that. 18 THE CHAIRMAN: I'm glad someone is 19 going to renovate it. 20 Are they restoring -- this MS. LATHAM: 21 is not really germane, but the brick fence are they 22 going to restore that or are they going to bring that down? 23 24 MR. QUARLES: That I can't speak to. Ι 25 can't --

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1
                 MS. LATHAM:
                              I just think it would be
 2
     great to see that built out again.
 3
                 MR. OUARLES: It would be wonderful.
 4
     think it would help knock down some of the sound
     off of Jasper. We might have some planting behind
 5
 6
     and some planting in front of it as well. It all
 7
     depends. I'm not a landscape architect. That will
8
     be the next phase.
 9
                 THE CHAIRMAN: There's room between
10
     the fence and the easement. So unlike other
11
     properties on --
12
                 MR. ELLIOTT: Do you know if you guys
13
     need a special exception to renovate the historic
14
     cottage from us?
15
                 THE CHAIRMAN:
                                No.
16
                 MR. QUARLES:
                               No.
17
                 THE CHAIRMAN: Once we grant it --
18
                 MR. QUARLES:
                               No.
                                    This is a request
     for the ability or the permission to build the new
19
20
     house on the back.
21
                 MS. LATHAM:
                              Yes.
22
                 MR. QUARLES: It gives us more
23
     incentive to renovate --
24
                 MR. ELLIOTT: I understand.
25
                 MR. QUARLES: -- the existing
```

structure.
THE CHAIRMAN: Okay. Any questions?
Okay. Is there anyone who would like to make
public comment on this application?
Hearing none, I will close public
comment and the Board will consider the special
exception request. Any thoughts?
MS. TIMMONS: I think it is great.
MS. LATHAM: I don't see any reason not
to grant it.
THE CHAIRMAN: Any time someone is
going to restore a historic structure
MS. LATHAM: I love that old cottage.
THE CHAIRMAN: and keep an old
cottage, I'm all for it.
MR. ELLIOTT: Joe, has there been any
concern from the public about these plans, about
whether these plans would impact the character of
the street or the welfare?
MR. HENDERSON: No. We had one
concerned citizen that came in and reviewed the
plans, but I they're okay with it. He's okay with
it.
MR. RICHARDSON: Really?
MR. HENDERSON: I think it was a member

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1
     of the Richardson family.
 2
                 MR. ROBINSON: But only one.
 3
                 THE CHAIRMAN: We can quess which one.
 4
     Would anybody like to take a try? Have a try?
 5
                               I'll do it. Okay. I
                 MS. TIMMONS:
 6
     move that we grant the special exception to this
 7
     proposal because it does meet all of the criteria
8
     of Zoning Ordinance 2120 C.(2) and all of the
9
     conditions of 21-178 and the conditions of
10
     21-140. If you'd like for me to read them all I
11
     will, but --
12
                 MR. HENDERSON: I don't think that's
13
     necessary.
14
                 MS. LATHAM:
                              We're good.
15
                 MS. TIMMONS: I think as -- so that's
16
     my motion.
17
                 THE CHAIRMAN:
                                Okay. I think that's --
18
                 MS. LATHAM: I second.
19
                 THE CHAIRMAN:
                                There's a second.
                                                    Is
20
     there any further discussion?
21
                 MR. ELLIOTT: None.
22
                 THE CHAIRMAN: All in favor, signify by
23
     saying aye.
24
                 (All Board members stated aye.)
25
                 THE CHAIRMAN:
                                Like sign opposed?
```

Thank you very much.

MR. QUARLES: Thank you, members of the

3 | Board.

MR. HENDERSON: Thank you.

414 PATRIOT STREET

THE CHAIRMAN: And now we will move to the variance request for 414 Patriot Street.

Jessica Carroll is requesting approval of a dimensional variance for the setback of the RS Zoning District. Joe, would you please present for the Town.

MR. HENDERSON: Sure. This is Agenda Item E.(1). It's a dimensional variance request. The applicants are requesting a variance from the rear setback requirement of the zoning ordinance listing in 21 and 22 E.(1). A request is being made for a 15-foot encroachment or 60 percent variance into this 25-foot rear setback.

The pool -- this is for a pool. The edge of the coping for this pool will stop at 10 feet from the property line. I would just draw your attention to the standards for granting variances under 21-179. I have these in front of you and I will reserve some time to issue a staff recommendation if you would like me to do so.

I yield to the Board for any questions.

I also have a copy of the plans here to review.

This is the site layout, Patriot Street on the bottom. This is an interior lot. The pool is proposed in the rear yard.

THE CHAIRMAN: And you sent us some information on the other pools in that area because there is one pool on that street which did receive back in 1999 a variance. I believe it was less of a variance than this one. Then there is another for which there was not a variance needed and there were several that were denied.

So can you compare this variance to those? There are actually -- there are two problems. There is the setback and impervious surface. So this has two that's complicated.

MR. HENDERSON: We have -- and I'll pull up an aerial of the street here. We have resolved the impervious surface requirements. So they will -- the applicant has proposed to meet the impervious surface requirements.

So the only request being made today is the variance to the rear setback. The Board requested that I pull together some history on pool variances issued not only on this street but in the

area. In the application it is referenced that -
THE CHAIRMAN: 2024 and 2020.

MR. HENDERSON: -- 2024 and 2020 both

have pools. So this property here is 2024.

THE CHAIRMAN: They received a variance from the setback on the marsh side. Those are side -- those two pools are in the side yard. So side setbacks are --

MR. HENDERSON: 420 and 424. Right.

I'll start all over again. Okay. Here's the table that I sent out to you just detailing the history of pool variances issued. So 424 Patriot Street in May of 1999 was granted a variance from the RC-2 setback.

I believe then it was 25 feet from the RC-2 line. Today it is 30 feet. It was granted to be in the side yard no closer than six feet to the property line. The Board at that time deemed that the property conditions showed an unreasonable -- provided a hardship because they couldn't reasonably use the property for a pool.

In September of 2012 for 2213 Myrtle
Boulevard there was a hearing but a decision wasn't
rendered by the BZA. I believe the Board actually
requested more information from the applicant.

There was some opposition because the request was for a pool to be placed within the rear setback for that property. The property owner directly behind the subject property came out and voiced opposition to it.

In those minutes the Board explained the setbacks are there for a reason and there was discussion on that, i.e. uses on those properties; rear setbacks need to respect the neighbors.

No vote was taken. So it was deferred and then the applicant withdrew their application permanently and no pool was built.

In June 2014 at 1802 Back Street the Board denied the variance because they deemed that an inability to construct the pool does not unreasonably restrict the use of the entire property.

That's kind of where the Board is today is that the statutory requirement -- and I'll go back to -- under utilization it states that in order to grant a variance the piece of property would effectively prohibit or unreasonably restrict the utilization of the property, the entire property. The utilization of this property is if a single family home and the applicants can enjoy

Ŧ	those benefits today. So it's the staff's
2	recommendation that pools or accessory structures
3	for recreational uses are not a justification or a
4	hardship and thus cannot be granted a variance.
5	That's the staff recommendation.
6	THE CHAIRMAN: Just to clarify, the
7	pool at 420 did not require a variance.
8	MS. TIMMONS: Correct.
9	THE CHAIRMAN: Is that correct?
LO	MR. HENDERSON: That's correct.
11	THE CHAIRMAN: Yeah, because these
L2	are just to reiterate, 420 and 424 are pools on
L3	the side. The ones that have been denied or
L4	withdrawn have been in the back
15	MR. ELLIOTT: Sure.
.6	THE CHAIRMAN: because those
L7	setbacks are bigger, larger.
. 8	MR. ELLIOTT: Joe, with the Google map
.9	could you show which house it was again for 414?
20	MR. HENDERSON: So 424 so this
21	this is the subject property. Is that right?
22	MRS. CARROLL: That's right.
23	MR. HENDERSON: This is the subject
24	property and this is 424. This is 420. Here is
25	the location of the 424 pool six feet from the

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1
     property line and the pool here -- is that an
 2
     elevated pool?
 3
                 MR. ROBINSON:
                                It is.
 4
                 MR. HENDERSON: It is an elevated pool
 5
     and it meets the 10-foot required setback.
 6
     in compliance with the ordinance. Let me see if I
 7
     can get a picture of the back yard here.
 8
                 THE CHAIRMAN: You're making me dizzy.
 9
     I'll wait until you're done.
10
                 MR. HENDERSON: That's not intentional.
11
                 MRS. CARROLL:
                                That's it right there.
12
                 MS. LATHAM:
                              There.
13
                 MR. HENDERSON: Here we go.
14
                 THE CHAIRMAN:
                                Do y'all have any more
15
     questions for Joe?
16
                 MR. ELLIOTT:
                               I have one more.
                                                  Joe,
17
     what is the staff's idea of the purpose of the
18
     setback?
19
                 MR. HENDERSON: Setbacks are intended
20
     to separate uses of property whether that be the
     residential use of a structure or -- setbacks are
21
     applied to accessory uses as well.
22
23
                 So if you put a shed on your property
24
     typically it's a lesser setback required.
25
     Sullivan's Island we decided that we want
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recreational uses and structures like decks, patios, pools, basketball courts, and tennis courts to meet the setbacks of that zoning district, of a residential district.

It is a more restrictive way to apply setbacks; nonetheless, that's what we've decided to do as the Town, as Town Council, is to require those uses to be brought back to allow folks, you know, neighbors not to be disturbed by splashing and, you know, folks using those --

MR. RICHARDSON: So that's the primary reason for a setback is not to infringe on the neighbor's --

MR. HENDERSON: That's correct.

THE CHAIRMAN: The right to quiet enjoyment basically.

MR. RICHARDSON: I think the neighbor is fine with this. Do you remember -- it seems to me there was -- on Raven extended we did a 15-foot setback allowance for two or three of those lots so that somebody could have a larger house, I think, than the Carrolls have.

MR. HENDERSON: So this is the Raven extension with the small lots that have the critical line coming into them.

```
1
                 MR. RICHARDSON:
                                  Right.
 2
                                 Well, if you look at
                 MR. HENDERSON:
 3
     the standards here it says that you issue the
 4
     variance if it effectively prohibits the
 5
     utilization of the property period, the entire
 6
     property.
 7
                 If you applied the setbacks to those
 8
     properties on Raven then you would be left with --
 9
                 THE CHAIRMAN: A tiny --
10
                 MR. HENDERSON: -- a building envelope
11
     that will allow a dog house. It couldn't allow the
12
     building of a house to use the property.
                                                So I
13
     think those are very different.
14
                 I think that's a justified variance.
15
     Accessory structures -- this is kind of the norm
     across the country. Granting dimensional variances
16
17
     for accessory structures is not typically justified
18
     because it doesn't prohibit you from utilizing the
19
     entire property.
20
                 MR. RICHARDSON: Did you say elevated
     pools have a different setback?
21
22
                 MR. HENDERSON:
                                 No.
23
                 MR. RICHARDSON: Okay.
24
                 THE CHAIRMAN:
                                That one has to meet a
25
     10-foot setback. That particular side -- the pool
```

that's elevated on the side there's only a 10-foot side setback because that's on the side.

So they were able to meet -- they did not require a variance to build that pool. They're not in the setback, but it is a lesser setback on the sides. Any more questions for Joe before we open it to the applicants?

Okay. Would the applicants like to present? Mr. and Mrs. Carroll.

MRS. CARROLL: I'm Jessica Carroll.

My husband is actually on call tonight.

Unfortunately, he couldn't be here.

As Joe stated, we're looking to have a reduction in that rear setback variance from 25 to 10 feet and the reason being, as was the case with 424 Patriot back in 1999 with this lot, is there are exceptional conditions. With these lots it's, you know, a sixth of an acre.

In looking through the zoning ordinances these are meant to be applied to much larger properties than a sixth of an acre properties and mostly because the way that the house -- you know, we didn't build the house.

We bought it. We're second owners of the home. Initially in looking at it we thought we

would be able to build a pool in the back yard without knowing what the ordinances were at the time.

Obviously only having 26 feet from the rear of our home to the property line, you know, I believe that that unreasonably restricts our use of the property because, you know, we essentially can't do anything with it with that -- with the setback that's in place currently.

More importantly, as stated previously, all of our neighbors are in support of this. There is a substantial buffer in every direction of where this pool would be placed unlike what was not even needed to be approved for a variance with 420 Patriot Street. We rented the house at 424 for two years before we bought on that street.

I know how close that pool is to their house. We're not in that same situation at all. Every property that borders to the rear and each side has said they would love for us to be able to have a pool in our back yard and that it wouldn't infringe on their property at all.

Let me see if there's anything else I want to add here. I have included some photos of our property and other properties that we've

referenced in here for you guys to take a look at. 1 2 I think that's it. 3 Any questions? THE CHAIRMAN: 4 MS. BRASHER: I saw the two letters 5 from your neighbors saying they were fine with it. Which -- it looks to me there are about four or 6 7 five houses around you. 8 Which of the neighbors are okay with it? Would that -- would the pool go right where 9 10 that green spot is? 11 MRS. CARROLL: So, yes, these three are the ones who primarily border the main side of our 12 13 It's these house and these two. Yes, it property. 14 would be right here in that green space. 15 MS. BRASHER: So in the packet I saw two letters and --16 17 MRS. CARROLL: One of them owns two of 18 those. 19 MS. BRASHER: Oh, okay. Got you. 20 THE CHAIRMAN: He owns the house to the 21 right of them and the house behind them, not from 22 that view. So... 23 MS. BRASHER: Would another reason --24 is there -- Randy, are there other reasons for 25 setbacks or, for, example for safety?

1	Do you need a certain amount of space?
2	THE CHAIRMAN: No.
3	MR. ROBINSON: No.
4	MR. RICHARDSON: Jessica, are there
5	any modifications you could make?
6	Could you move your pad?
7	Could you make a smaller pool?
8	MRS. CARROLL: So that's I actually
9	sent that information over to Joe yesterday and I
10	have it with me here. So that relates to the
11	impervious coverage that we were talking about. We
12	were over by, I think, 170 square feet.
13	So we are doing just that. We're
14	moving the front walkway which is stone currently.
15	We're removing one of the AC pads, the bigger one
16	on the side, and we're reducing the length of the
17	pool from 30 feet to 27. So that gets us to the
18	allowable 36 percent.
19	MR. RICHARDSON: But it doesn't get you
20	closer to the house?
21	MRS. CARROLL: It does not.
22	MR. RICHARDSON: So you can't move the
23	rear pad?
24	MRS. CARROLL: So we wanted to keep it
25	for safety reasons at least five feet away from the

structure. We could move it closer, but it would just shrink that distance from the edge of the house to the pool. I mean, it's possible.

THE CHAIRMAN: You know, this is a -the problem I have with it is this is a 60 percent
variance and that would be the largest pool
variance that the Board has recently granted. We
as the Board do not consider the 1999 decision
precedent setting because we've moved away from
that.

I will tell you that we have a difficult time with the hardship issue when it's a pool because it's an accessory structure and it doesn't prevent you from using the property. Does it -- might it prevent you from having a pool?

Yes.

So on this island it is just very difficult to overcome that specific hardship request. That's why some have withdrawn and then come back with a smaller variance. So I understand why you want it.

The thing I will say about the neighbors is those neighbors might not be your neighbors forever. I mean, they're -- they may sell the house. So having the current neighbors

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agree to it is a point in your favor, but that property could also change hands.

The new owners, of course, they might -- they would know about the condition before they bought the house. So -- but my problem is that it's a 60 percent variance.

MR. RICHARDSON: I mean, what has been an acceptable percentage variance in the past?

THE CHAIRMAN: Several that have come before us over the past three years have been -- were a house has been taken down and there's going to be a new footprint and they come back with a reduced variance request because we do not approve those, especially when you're rebuilding.

We have asked -- we have asked in the past for people to mitigate those variances and come back to us and then we're likely to approve them, but --

MR. RICHARDSON: So maybe a 30 percent variance?

THE CHAIRMAN: It depends. We're not going to give a number. We do like to see it reduced.

Now, that's the Board of four, three, two years ago. This is a different board, but Joe

is correct in why we have setbacks. It is difficult for me to consider a pool -- not having a pool hardship.

MR. ELLIOTT: I have a question,
Mrs. Carroll. You said in your presentation that
you thought the variance or the setbacks were
intended for larger lots.

What did you mean by that and what research did you do to come to that conclusion?

MRS. CARROLL: So I reference in the zoning ordinances -- and, you know, these lots are given relief because of their exceptional size on the side setbacks which allowed the pool at 420 Patriot, but we're not given any relief on the rear setbacks. You know, that's where I'm having a hard time with this.

I understand the reason for the zoning or for the setback limits, but when you can have 10 feet from a pool to a house on one side and be very close to your neighbor's home where I'm asking for the same thing and I'm -- you know, 30 and 40 and 50 and 60 feet from my neighbor's home in any direction, you know, I don't understand how that's -- that's not allowable. Let me show you exactly what I'm talking about.

So it does not apply to other properties in the vicinity. As stated, 414 Patriot Street is zoned within the RS Single Family District.

As stated in the zoning ordinances for the Town of Sullivan's Island, Section 21-119 (A): The regulations that apply within this district are designed to encourage the formation and continuance of a stable, healthy environment for one single family, primarily owner-occupied, dwelling per lot with each lot having an area of at least one half an acre.

MS. LATHAM: I somewhat disagree with that point. I think with smaller lots it's even more important to enforce setbacks so you don't end up with an area that is very closed in. So, you know, I -- you know, my question is do -- of the three houses you've cited it doesn't appear as if any of them have a pool.

The one directly behind on the aerial photo -- it would appear to me that the only way they could get one is by getting a variance for their rear setback. So, you know, their endorsement could be seen as somewhat self-serving.

MRS. CARROLL: Those homes are much

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larger footprints. We've got by far the smallest
 1
 2
     home square-footage-wise on Patriot Street.
 3
                 MS. LATHAM: I understand everyone's
 4
     desire to have a pool, but it doesn't --
 5
                 MRS. CARROLL:
                                 It would be different
     if --
 6
 7
                 MS. TIMMONS:
                                I will say -- I think
 8
     we're in discussion.
 9
                 THE CHAIRMAN: I haven't closed public
10
     comment, but we can still talk to --
11
                 MS. TIMMONS: We're still discussing
     it.
12
13
                 THE CHAIRMAN: Yes.
14
                 MS. TIMMONS: No.
                                     I don't see not
15
     getting a pool -- not being able to have a pool
16
     as a hardship, but at the same time I do think
17
     given -- you know, 15 feet is a little bit too much
     in my mind, but I would -- I would have sympathy
18
19
     for these smaller lots.
20
                 A pool is not really encroaching other
21
     than the noise in terms of breezes and new sheds.
22
     It's not like --
23
                 THE CHAIRMAN:
                                 I got you.
24
                 MS. TIMMONS:
                              -- building a house.
     We're building back. So this is one that at first
25
```

1	I thought, no way, Jose. Then, well	34
2	THE CHAIRMAN: We denied one on	
3	MS. TIMMONS: We did.	
4	THE CHAIRMAN: Is that the Myrtle one?	
5	MS. TIMMONS: Right.	
6	THE CHAIRMAN: And this was the same	
7	exact	
8	MS. TIMMONS: Same kind of	
9	THE CHAIRMAN: scenario. They were	
10	10 feet into the setback. In that case with that	
11	property owner it would have been 15 feet from her	
12	bedroom window.	
13	MS. LATHAM: That was my thought, that	
14	as I understand our current the precedent that	
15	you've got for pools is	
16	THE CHAIRMAN: The variances.	
17	MS. LATHAM: Yeah. I mean, you could	
18	do a lap pool that's six feet wide. I mean, this	
19	is a fairly substantial pool for a lot this size.	
20	MR. ELLIOTT: This is my big thing	
21	with in the meetings I've sat in it's been	
22	pretty regular that we get folks who come in and	
23	say, well, there was a variance on this property	
24	and this was granted for this reason and and I	
25	don't see that it's my job to go back and find out	

why a certain board did a certain thing. I mean, I don't know. Maybe they didn't know what they were doing. Maybe they didn't read the statute.

I think it is wrong to describe it as precedential meaning binding on us. I think we can look at it if we want to, but I don't think we're bound by a board that was just previous to us.

I think the problem is when you begin doing that, you know, when you look back maybe someone made a decision because a neighbor was complaining or someone wasn't complaining. You know, whatever the situation was if you don't follow, you know, rules that we have set out you get into these subjective things and you go astray.

THE CHAIRMAN: You're exactly right.

MS. LATHAM: And as far as being denied the use of the property, they're not. They have a single family house on the property.

MR. ELLIOTT: Right. Now to the next thing. I don't see how we can conclude that 21-179 B.(3) is compliant with it when it says: Because of these conditions the application of the zoning ordinance, the particular piece of property, would effectively prohibit or unreasonably restrict the utilization of the property.

1 I can't conclude that based on not allowing a pool. 2 3 MS. LATHAM: That's --4 THE CHAIRMAN: I didn't mean that anything was precedent setting. 5 MR. ELLIOTT: Yeah. 6 7 THE CHAIRMAN: I meant how we actually 8 approach hardship --9 MR. ELLIOTT: Sure. THE CHAIRMAN: -- because there have 10 11 been pendulum swings, so to speak. We're trying to 12 chart not a narrow course but a reasonable course 13 forward. So I think it is helpful to see what 14 But, yes, it's not precedent setting. happened. You're exactly right because every 15 lot on this island is different. Even a lot that's 16 exactly the same size on the same street the 17 18 treescape is different and the footprint of the house is different. 19 MS. LATHAM: And the elevation with --20 21 THE CHAIRMAN: So --MR. RICHARDSON: I do think one of the 22 23 things that Joe said about the lots on Raven extended, there is -- is inherent to a hardship in 24 a very small lot. I'm sort of with you, Jody. 25

mean, maybe going beyond the setbacks magnifies some of the problems.

What is the real basis for zoning here on the island? It is quality of life, I think.

What we want to figure out how to do is to be consistent enough, I think, but help everybody enjoy the quality of life they want which is why on the Raven lots it wasn't a tiny little house.

We did that setback so they could have a 2,300 or 2,400-square-foot house. Houses never used to be 2,300 or 2,400 square feet, let alone 5,000 square feet. Well, they used to be like 2850 Jasper.

So inherently there is a problem with the smaller lots. If we could frame it like that and if you could come back with less of a percentage infringement maybe on the setback it might be worth considering. I don't know.

MR. HENDERSON: Just to touch on the reasonable utilization of a lot for residential living, we have always considered 2,400 square feet a reasonable size home for Sullivan's Island. The Isle of Palms has that same square footage.

It is 2,400 square feet. So when I have spoken to their planner in the past about how

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1
     they consider granting variances for accessory
 2
     structures I say, really, what do you guys define
 3
     as the reasonable utilization of the properties?
 4
     He said about 2,400 square feet.
 5
                 So if you applied setbacks to your
     expensive property out here on one of these barrier
 6
 7
     islands and you were left with a 900-square-foot
 8
     house that's a little unreasonable. So they'd
 9
     probably grant you --
10
                 MR. RICHARDSON: So you buy two lots
11
     or you buy --
12
                 MR. HENDERSON: That wouldn't work on
13
     our island because you can't subdivide and
     recombine lots.
14
15
                                You can't subdivide.
                 THE CHAIRMAN:
16
                 MR. RICHARDSON: You can combine --
17
                 MR. HENDERSON:
                                 So getting back to --
18
     so how do you define reasonable utilization of the
19
     lot for reasonable living?
                                 It's --
20
                 MR. RICHARDSON:
                                  That's really what
21
     we're talking about, though. What is the intent in
22
     terms of utilization?
23
                 MR. HENDERSON: Is it --
                 MR. RICHARDSON:
24
                                  How many square feet
25
     is your house, Mrs. Carroll?
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MRS. CARROLL: What's that?

MR. RICHARDSON: How many square feet is your house?

MRS. CARROLL: 2,500 something.

THE CHAIRMAN: Is there any other public comment? Do you have anything else you'd like to say? We'll close public comment and actually deliberate.

MRS. CARROLL: The only thing that I would add was I understand with the end of the street property which was 424 being six feet to their property line, I'm asking for 10 feet to our rear property line. They don't have anybody -- any neighbors to the left of them where their pool is.

Where my issue lies in all of this is seeing the house at 420 Patriot that did not have to have a variance because the setbacks were given some relief to 10 feet because of the sides of the property; yet on ours there's no relief on the rear setback. We have probably 15 feet on either side of our house.

We've got, you know, substantial buffers in either direction. You know, obviously we didn't build the home. If we build built it and we wanted to put a pool in we would have done a

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1 more narrow home and put it on the side.
2 THE CHAIRMAN: I just want to

THE CHAIRMAN: I just want to say one thing. The side setback is 10 feet; so they were able to build a pool without asking for relief.

MRS. CARROLL: Right.

THE CHAIRMAN: So their house was situated so that they could build a pool --

MRS. CARROLL: Right.

THE CHAIRMAN: -- and not encroach on that 10 foot setback.

MRS. CARROLL: I'm saying that the variances --

THE CHAIRMAN: So the situation was different than your situation.

MRS. CARROLL: Right. I was saying in the actual zoning ordinances there is -- you know, it says a combined 40 feet on each side, but based on how wide your property is it can be as -- as small as 10 feet. So they're -- in the zoning ordinances they have made accommodations for smaller lots on the side setbacks.

So what I'm stating is there aren't any -- there aren't any accommodations being made for the rear setbacks in the same way.

THE CHAIRMAN: And I think that is

T	Decause
2	MR. HENDERSON: It's true.
3	THE CHAIRMAN: it's a narrow lot. I
4	don't know it's because of the size of the lot. Is
5	it the narrowness of the lot or the street
6	frontage?
7	MR. HENDERSON: That's true. The
8	Design Review Board can actually grant modification
9	or relief to side setbacks for one reason or
10	another, for the size of the lot or
11	appropriateness.
12	MRS. CARROLL: They can grant a little
13	bit of relief for front setbacks, but there is no
14	discretionary increases or modification for rear
15	setbacks. I think that was done for a reason
16	within the zoning ordinance.
17	Randy, can you elaborate on why rear
18	setbacks are
19	MR. ROBINSON: I can't elaborate on it,
20	but we did talk about at length about the Board
21	having some it kept coming back from Council,
22	no, we don't want to reduce the rear yard setback.
23	We just want to keep it consistent at 25 feet.
24	THE CHAIRMAN: I have one more
25	question. What is the distance between Lot 55

13 you're looking at? THE CHAIRMAN: It's lot 55 on the back. 14

So that would be on --MR. HENDERSON: So this could give us an approximate here. So this is -- this lot --

18 THE CHAIRMAN: Yes.

MR. HENDERSON: -- directly behind it. 19

There is the property line and the fence is right 20 there on the property line. 21

MRS. CARROLL: I think so. I do 22

believe so. I think it's fairly identical. 23

MR. HENDERSON: It's like 23, probably 24

25 25 feet.

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17

THE CHAIRMAN: And the distance between 1 2 their house, Lot 49, the Carroll's house, and the 3 fence. 4 MRS. CARROLL: I think we're at 26. 5 MR. HENDERSON: It's 26. 6 MRS. CARROLL: It's 26 feet. 7 MS. LATHAM: I mean, I understand when 8 you're looking at the property and you see it and 9 you're like, oh, this is a great spot for a pool 10 and you probably mentioned it to your Realtor. 11 Your Realtor probably should have been 12 aware of the setbacks. I mean, these are things, 13 you know --14 MRS. CARROLL: Right. 15 MS. LATHAM: I mean, these --16 We love where we live. MRS. CARROLL: 17 We don't want to have to move, but for us -- I know it's not a hardship or requirement, but for me 18 19 being pregnant in the middle of August it feels 20 like a requirement, especially in the summer. 21 THE CHAIRMAN: That is definitely --22 MRS. CARROLL: We really don't want to 23 have to move at this point, but that's our option 24 at this point if we can't put a small pool in the

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back yard. That's we thought we would be able to

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 1
     do so when we bought the house unfortunately.
 2
     So...
 3
                 THE CHAIRMAN: Again, I'll officially
     close public comment and --
 4
 5
                 MS. LATHAM:
                              Is there any history on
 6
     this from the people who built the property
 7
     originally?
 8
                 Was there ever a discussion of a pool
 9
     at that point?
10
                 MR. HENDERSON: I'm not -- I'm not
11
     sure.
12
                 THE CHAIRMAN: Is this a spec house?
13
                 MR. HENDERSON: Do you remember when it
14
     was --
15
                 MR. ELLIOTT:
                               It probably used to be
16
     one lot, didn't it, a long time ago?
17
                 THE CHAIRMAN: I think it has always
18
     been --
19
                 MS. TIMMONS: Was a row of little brick
20
     houses there. There's just one now.
21
                 MR. ELLIOTT: I got you. They've
22
     always been --
23
                 MR. ROBINSON: Yeah.
                                        I mean, when they
24
     were the old setback it was 20 feet.
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THE CHAIRMAN: That's when the houses

1	were very small.				
2	MR. ROBINSON: Correct, and then it				
3	changed to 25.				
4	MS. LATHAM: But even at 20 they				
5	wouldn't be able to do it. So				
6	MS. LATHAM: Did you purchase the house				
7	knowing that you were going to have to apply for a				
8	variance for the pool?				
9	MRS. CARROLL: No. I mean, we just				
10	obviously, you know, with the pictures I included				
11	and looking at the back yard				
12	MS. LATHAM: You just assumed?				
13	MRS. CARROLL: we didn't know the				
14	setbacks were 25 feet. It was not until I actually				
15	started contacting pool companies that they were				
16	like, have you talked to the Town about this? I				
17	was like, well, why?				
18	MS. LATHAM: The Realtors know it and				
19	they don't say anything.				
20	MRS. CARROLL: Okay.				
21	MR. ELLIOTT: Pool companies know it				
22	and tree people know it.				
23	THE CHAIRMAN: Not all of the pool				
24	companies know it.				
25	MS. LATHAM: Well, they know it.				

46 They're just willing to act like they don't. 1 2 THE CHAIRMAN: I have had some 3 owners --We have a neighbor whose 4 MS. LATHAM: 5 philosophy to all things was to ask forgiveness instead of permission; hence they have a pool in 6 front of their house that's only like eight feet 7 from the street. 8 9 THE CHAIRMAN: Randy's thinking. They've already sold the 10 MS. LATHAM: 11 They've moved, but, I mean the pool is still there. It is a nice pool. It is lovely, but 12 it's totally --13 I know which one you're 14 THE CHAIRMAN: talking about. 15 MR. ELLIOTT: A problem, too, is if 16 17 someone moves in next door and says, I can put my pool right where his is --18 MS. LATHAM: We can't figure out -- we 19 don't have one because it's like, where would it 20 21 go? MR. ELLIOTT: I was thinking maybe the 22 side yard separation is less because a lot of 23 people don't hang out in their side yard. 24

25

This is true.

MS. LATHAM:

MR. ELLIOTT: They hang out in their back yard because it's not a convenient and --

MS. LATHAM: We hang out in the yard because there's no driveway and --

MR. ELLIOTT: Someone asked Randy what a reason was. I was trying to think of a reason for that and that's the only thing that occurred to me.

MS. LATHAM: Well, your windows tend to be on the front and the back.

MR. ELLIOTT: You're right.

THE CHAIRMAN: Actually, all the houses being built along Atlantic are being built in a "C" and a pool in the middle for privacy so the people won't stand in the dunes and look at them, I guess. I don't know.

MR. RICHARDSON: So, Ms. Carroll, you can see the dilemma here, that if we make an exception for you then down the road there's an exception for everybody else unless there is a way for us to see how an exception is justified, either justified for smaller lots or justified in a certain area or justified for something and if -- or justified to adjust 20 percent or 30 percent into the setback but not 60 percent.

1 MR. ELLIOTT: I just don't see a basis 2 for that. I mean --3 MS. LATHAM: My issue is it's not a 4 hardship. The use of the property hasn't been 5 impaired. The desirability has potentially been 6 impaired, but not the functionality. 7 MR. ELLIOTT: If my wife finds out I voted against a pool she's going to be mad at me. 8 9 The reality is I look at this thing as soberly as I 10 can and see how I can be fair to these folks and 11 fair to the next person coming in and I can't. 12 No one has convinced me how I can satisfy 21-179 B.(3). I can't say that. 13 14 MS. LATHAM: That's where I am. 15 THE CHAIRMAN: That's my problem --16 MS. LATHAM: As much as --17 THE CHAIRMAN: -- though I will say 18 that we have granted pool variances before when the variance has been 20 percent or less. Sometimes we 19 20 even turned down 10 percent and made them come back 21 for five. 22 The one on the end of the island -- do you remember the pool on the end of the island at 23 24 The Point? So it's a decrease in the percentage of 25 the variance.

Now, I saw a pool on -- y'all ought to 1 2 go look at it because it's what I want. It is on 3 Marshall on the front and they built this little 4 kidney-shaped pool on the side. I think it's got a little spa in it, 5 too, but it's like a little small pool. It's on 6 7 the side because it can't be on the front there and it can't be on the back. You know, that's all they 8 9 could probably fit there. So, you know, it's a 10 small pool. 11 MS. LATHAM: Have you seen the -- it's 12 on Middle. It's the more modern white house that's sort of set back where they put the arbor in and 13 the very narrow --14 15 THE CHAIRMAN: Uh-huh. 16 It's a very small pool. MS. LATHAM: 17 It's about five feet wide and about 15 or 20 feet 18 It's cute and functional and they put an endless pool blower in the front of it so they 19 20 could swim laps with it being narrow. 21 Has there been any consideration trying 22 to -- you've got 12 feet. So if you go to six feet 23 which is the width of a lane and --

for us.

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25

It's more for our kids. You know, for

MRS. CARROLL: I mean, it's not really

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1
     safety reasons we wanted to do it linear so that we
 2
     can have an automatic cover for the pool. For
 3
     safety reasons, yeah.
 4
                 I mean, like I said, if it's not
 5
     something that we can do at a reasonable width then
 6
     we'll probably move and build something with a pool
 7
     in the middle. I just really don't want to have to
 8
     do that with two babies.
 9
                 THE CHAIRMAN:
                                Okay. James, did vou
10
     want to make a motion? We won't tell your wife.
11
                 MR. ELLIOTT: I've never moved to deny
     a motion.
12
13
                 THE CHAIRMAN:
                                That's all you do.
14
                 MR. ELLIOTT: Okay then.
                                            I quess I can
15
               I guess I'll move that the Board denies
16
     the motion for the variance requested by Mr. and
     Mrs. Carroll -- Dr. And Mrs. Carroll.
17
18
                                Say the address.
                 THE CHAIRMAN:
                                                   You
19
     just need to say --
20
                 MR. ELLIOTT:
                               I'm just looking for it.
21
                 THE CHAIRMAN: At 414 --
22
                               At 414 Patriot Street.
                 MR. ELLIOTT:
23
                                The motion has been
                 THE CHAIRMAN:
            Is there a second?
24
     made.
25
                 MS. BRASHER:
                               Second.
```

Τ	THE CHAIRMAN: Any further discussion?				
2	All in favor of the motion to deny the variance				
3	request signify by saying aye.				
4	(All Board members stated aye.)				
5	THE CHAIRMAN: Like sign opposed? I'm				
6	sorry. Your variance request is denied.				
7	Is there any further business to come				
8	before the Board of Zoning Appeals? Hearing none,				
9	is there a motion to adjourn?				
10	MS. TIMMONS: I so move.				
11	THE CHAIRMAN: Is there a second?				
12	MR. RICHARDSON: Second.				
13	THE CHAIRMAN: All in favor, signify by				
14	saying aye.				
15	(All Board members stated aye.)				
16	THE CHAIRMAN: Like sign opposed? We				
17	don't hear you. This meeting is adjourned.				
18	(The meeting was adjourned at 7:03 PM.)				
19					
20					
21					
22					
23					
24					
25					

CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

I, Priscilla Nay, Court Reporter and Notary Public for the State of South Carolina, do hereby certify that the foregoing transcript is a true, accurate, and complete record.

I further certify that I am neither related to nor counsel for any party to the cause pending or interested in the events thereof.

Witness my hand, I have hereunto affixed my official seal this 16th day of August, 2016 at Charleston, Charleston County, South Carolina.



Justilla May

Priscilla Nay, Court Reporter My Commission expires December 2, 2021

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